

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Lynn Picanso and I was born in Waterbury Connecticut.

What I am wanting to state is with this I found acute help and a network of support with the Independence Center many years ago. Dated as far back at the 1990's, when we were on West Main Street. I found myself in an applied circumstance that helped me find and recover myself through COVID. With myself, I won't do what I won't do, but today I coexist with myself. I have just found myself with a newness of the Independence Center and awakening a time with myself for some acute adjustments that need and have to take place, where I need to be a part of, not a part from myself. A person a long time ago, I found I could not live with, to date, I am pressing on, I am smiling, I am seeking skill, I'm content and I like me. If this is important then know, we are where we can be. Please continue to fund Mental Health Connecticut's programs. Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my perspective on the budget. Please support increasing funding for community nonprofits by 9% in FY24 and 7% in FY25, and to index future increases to inflation.